

SketchyTruth

Somewhere in between the
good news and the bad news
lies the truth

(A concept for a cartooning application on mobile devices)



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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORSHIP/ORIGINALITY

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Signature of Student

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aravind', is written over a horizontal line.

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The news
Just came in
From the Country of Keck
That a very small bug
By the name of Van Vleck
Is yawning so wide
You can look down his neck.

This may not seem
Very important, I know.
But it is. So I'm bothering
Telling you so.



Abstract

SketchyTruth aims to explore through user-generated cartoons the hidden ‘truths’ between news headlines.

In an increasingly visual culture cartoons are centrally positioned to act as decoders of mediated information laden with public relations and political spin. By reframing the news through cartoon drawing in an online, interactive and social context we will be able to uncover meaning in reportage that current forms of news transmission cannot do.

A conceptual model is proposed for collaboratively reflecting upon the news and its social effects. It seeks to leverage the power of distributed knowledge and harness collective wisdom in reconstructing an alternative picture of the news.

The conceptual model discussed in the exegesis forms the basis for SketchyTruth – a concept for an application on smart mobile devices. Citizen journalism and social media are recast into a visual alternative – ‘citizen cartooning’. It examines the intersubjective space in between the good news and the bad news, where conversation and contemplation thrive. Citizen cartoonists will be invited to reinterpret, remix and repack the news.

In visual confections where the whole is much more than the sum of its parts, an aggregate cartoon interpretation of the news may actually help us see the issues beyond the headline more clearly.

Images can serve as tools for making sense out of the complexity, social variance and uncertainty in the news networked information space. In a mobile digital world of conjecture, confluence and confection, a world of relative truths, the cartoon image can act as our guide and beacon.

